

Florence Township Council Regular Session 9/20/17

Florence, New Jersey
September 20, 2017

The Florence Township Council held a regular meeting on the above date in the Municipal Complex, 711 Broad Street, Florence, New Jersey.

The meeting was called to order by Council Vice President Ostrander at 8:00 PM. Council President Lovenduski led the Salute to the Flag. A Moment of Silence was observed for Commander Robert Yancey who passed away the day before.

Council President Lovenduski said Commander Yancey was a local veteran who served in three wars. He was a regular participant in the Patriotic Day Parade and was a very nice gentleman. He will be missed.

The Opening Statement was read by the Township Clerk: Notice was sent to the Trenton Times for information; posted on the municipal bulletin board; placed on the web-site on January 5, 2017; and advertised in the Burlington County Times on January 8, 2017.

Present: Paul Ostrander, Jerry Sandusky, David Woolston, Ted Lovenduski

Absent: Frank Baldorossi

Mayor Wilkie explained that Councilman Baldorossi was unable to attend because his work assignment was changed and he has to work night shift. He has had to for the last couple of weeks. It is unfortunate. In his sixteen years on Council he only missed a handful of meetings.

Also present: Mayor Craig H. Wilkie; Richard A. Brook, Township Administrator; Thomas A. Sahol, Assistant Township Administrator; Kelly Grant, Esq., Township Attorney; Nancy L. Erlston, Township Clerk

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Wilkie asked Hunter Daly to please come forward. Mayor Wilkie said Hunter just graduated from Florence High School. He asked Hunter when he started doing the high jump. Hunter told him it was during his junior year in high school. Mayor Wilkie said Hunter had only two years of experience. He went to the Junior Olympics in California and was very successful.

He said the proclamation was given on behalf of the Mayor and Council. He read the proclamation into the record.

MINUTES

Sandusky made a MOTION; seconded by Woolston to approve the following minutes. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried. Unanimous approval.

- Township Council Regular Session – September 6, 2017

Florence Township Council Regular Session 9/20/17

- Township Council Executive Session – September 13, 2017

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

It was the MOTION of Ostrander, seconded by Woolston to receive and file the Clerk's Monthly Report for August 2017, Court Administrator's Monthly Report for August 2017, CFO's Budget Report and Cash Report for August 2017 and the Tax Collector's Tax Report and Water & Sewer Report for August 2017. All ayes.

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky; seconded by Woolston to approve the **Treasurer's Bill List**.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

Motion carried. Unanimous approval.

REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Letter from Judy King requesting the use of the old Florence Firehouse on West Third Street for a meeting of the General Mercer Chapter of the DAR on October 7, 2017 from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

It was the Motion of Sandusky, seconded by Woolston to approve the request. All ayes.

APPLICATIONS

- A. Social Affair Permit for Trenton Irish Heritage Association, Inc.,
Roebing Museum Octoberfest, 100 Second Avenue, Roebing, NJ 08554
October 7, 2017 2:00pm to 7:00pm
- B. On-Premise Merchandise Raffle, Florence Township Civic Association
to benefit the Florence Township Soccer Association, Veterans Field, Broad Street
October 21, 2017 3:30pm to 6:00pm

It was the Motion of Woolston, seconded by Ostrander to approve applications A and B.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

AYES: Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Council President Lovenduski opened the meeting to the public at this time. Seeing no one wishing to be heard, it was the Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Woolston to close the public comments. All ayes.

RESOLUTIONS

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-191
Approve Change Order No. 1 and
Final Payment No 1 for
Chestnut Street Drainage Improvement to
Montana Construction Corp., Inc.
80 Constant Avenue
Lodi, NJ 07644**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-192
Approve Release of Maintenance Bond No. 5020351M
Route 130 Truck Plaza/Salson Logistics, Inc.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-193
Authorize Refund
Use of FAAD Building Fee
Event Cancelled due to Inclement Weather**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-194
Authorize Refund
Housing Inspection Fee**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-195
Approve Release of Maintenance Bond for
Conversion of Digesters to Sludge Holding Tanks
JVE Construction, LLC
116 West Main Street, Floor 2
Clinton, NJ 08809
Bond No. HICNE 10-222-0006**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-196
Amending Resolution No. 2017-91 Regarding
Authorization to Purchase Two Chevrolet Tahoe
Police Vehicles, Cooperative Pricing System Purchase**

It was the Motion of Sandusky, seconded by Ostrander to approve Resolution Nos. 2017-191 through 2017-196.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

Motion carried. Unanimous approval.

ORDINANCES

**ORDINANCE NO. 2017-26
AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE
AMENDING CHAPTER 134 OF THE FLORENCE TOWNSHIP CODE
TO ESTABLISH A STOP INTERSECTION AT
FIFTH AVENUE AND SOUTH STREETS
(1st Reading) (Public Hearing & Adoption 10/4/17)**

It was the Motion of Sandusky, seconded by Woolston to approve Ordinance No. 2017-26 and set the public hearing and adoption for October 4, 2017.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

REPORTS

Committees, Boards and Officers:

Administration

Mayor

Mayor Wilkie expressed his sympathy about Mr. Yancey. He served in WWII, The Korean War and in The Vietnam war. He was fortunate enough to attend Mr. Yancey's 90th Birthday Party three years ago. He was very nice. He was integral in the installation of the Burlington County Memorial a number of years ago. He made many contributions to this community and to his country.

Mayor Wilkie said he would like to recommend combining the October 11, 2017 meeting with the October 4, 2017 meeting, cancelling the October 11, 2017 meeting. He would also like to combine the November 1, 2017 meeting with November 8, 2017 meeting, cancelling the November 1, 2017 meeting. It was the Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Woolston to cancel the two meetings.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

Mayor Wilkie said he, Councilman Ostrander, Assistant Administrator Sahol and the Township Engineer attended the first meeting of the Burlington County task force regarding traffic improvements that are being planned. They met with Burlington City, Burlington Township at the County Engineer's Office. They have been reviewing some of the intersections and have some recommendations and some thoughts. There were discussions regarding the potential of what could be developed in the coming years. This was the first meeting. The process is continuing and it was acknowledged that the Florence-Columbus Road Route 130 intersection is moving forward in the sense that it is in the forefront to move forward to design. Hopefully

Florence Township Council Regular Session 9/20/17

there will be some funding from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission. The township has been coordinating this but this puts a more formal process in place.

Administrator Brook said part of the improvements that are being sought and worked out together also involve Florence Township looking ahead. There has been significant interest in the Route 130 corridor for the type of development the township has been seeking. There are at least two quality hotels that are looking out there, along with a restaurant. The township was just approached within the last two weeks by a third hotel. He believes they understand there just isn't a market to do three. That is a very positive aspect for the Route 130 and he thinks there will be more positive movement next year.

Mayor Wilkie said the former Florence Deli is going to be opened by a gentleman that lives in town. He is hoping to open the beginning of October. There is seating so people will be able to have a sit-down breakfast. They will be serving breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Township Administrator

Administrator Brook said he provided a copy of an e-mail he received from the Roebling Museum. In the past the township has agreed to let them sell a certain number of patterns, because they are a non-profit. The museum provides pictures of the patterns that are being sold or auctioned and they use the funds toward the operation of the museum. They would like to auction off nine more patterns. If Council is in agreement he will have the museum send the pictures and they can move forward.

It was the Motion of Sandusky, seconded by Woolston to approve the auction of the patterns. All ayes.

Assistant Municipal Administrator

Assistant Administrator Sahol said the paving project with PSE&G is continuing on, as far as identifying what roads the township will ask them to do. They should be able to take some of the township's roads completely through and not do just the half paving. He isn't sure what roads they are but he is looking at the exact quantities and trying to maximize the benefit and keep focused. He hopes it will keep some of the township's expenses down as far as what needs to be done for prep work. It is moving along nicely. He hopes to have the roads identified by the end of the week.

The railroad tracks on Railroad Avenue near Ready Pac are in ill repair. The township has worked on a few projects with New Jersey Transit and Conrail. There was a meeting a few weeks ago and he was able to get their attention focused. He learned the tracks will be removed and Railroad Avenue will be repaved. That is the first step in the abandonment of the tracks and the line. Hopefully this will go a long way in the township's effort to turn it into a trail. It is very positive for the community and for the motorists that use that roadway.

Assistant Administrator Sahol said he would like to provide an update of the Road Program. Tomorrow the contractor will be milling Winter Street, Riverview and Summer Street. There was a lot of concrete work done in that area. There were some really nice pedestrian

Florence Township Council Regular Session 9/20/17

improvements as well as some drainage improvements with the curbing and some pipe work. That area will be paved next week and then the contractor will move on to the 1000 block of West Fifth Street and Alden Avenue. That will then conclude the work for the Road Program. It was a very good program this year and all the residents' comments were positive. Even the restoration looks remarkable.

He said he had some bad news regarding the Farmer's Market. Over the past three weeks the number of people coming and purchasing from the vendors has drastically declined. The market vendors have hung in there as long as they possibly could but at this point it is a loss for them. The interest seems to be dropping. It is big during the heavy produce season. As soon as school started the participation really fell. The same thing happened last year, but it was even worse this year. He said the township is going to forgo the balance of the year for the market and reevaluate to maybe do two fall harvest festivals. He would like to bring in a bunch of vendors and advertise it heavily and see how it goes. He suggested holding one in early October and then one later in October to capitalize on the decorations for fall and Halloween and that kind of thing. The vendors are very interested in that.

Councilman Sandusky asked if there would be any signage at the farmer's market sight indicating it is closed. Assistant Administrator Sahol said he won't be putting up the sandwich board signs. The flags on the utility poles will be removed and it was posted on Facebook and it will hit the internet tonight. It runs rampant on Facebook and people will quickly read about it. He can't say it will cover one hundred percent. He agreed to post a small sign at the site. Councilman Sandusky said it seems the garden at the former Marconi Lodge site did really well this year. He asked if in the future there could be a one-time farmer's market in that lot.

Assistant Administrator Sahol said his last topic this evening was the roundabout. The area is quite impressive and the elevation changes are easy to see. It is starting to take shape. The good news is the contractor running ahead of schedule. He originally anticipated finishing up around November 28th but he now thinks it could possibly be done around November 11th. The reason is because in order to accommodate the traffic movements they will need to split the circle into two stages and not three. The half stage that will happen the end of this month and the first week of October is going to require that there be a shared lane. The shared lane will be shifted on the inside closer to the woods and there will be temporary traffic signals installed on Cedar Lane on the downhill from the whirlybird and on Cedar Lane as traffic approaches the work area. It should be a two week process then it will switch to the back side of the circle for another two to three weeks, possibly longer depending on the cure and some of the stamped concrete work. At that point the circle will open completely. It is moving along nicely and the contractor is not giving any indication that he is running into any problems. He is working well with the utility department and the County Engineer's Office. Assistant Administrator Sahol expects to receive another update tomorrow and he will try to provide an update for the public on social media.

Division of Engineering

Nothing at this time.

Division of Law

Florence Township Council Regular Session 9/20/17

Nothing at this time.

Unfinished Business

Nothing at this time.

New Business

None at this time.

Board of Health

Nothing at this time.

Public Comments: Open to the Public

Council President Lovenduski opened the meeting to the public.

Don Kamienski, 10 McCay Drive, asked if there was going some type of guardrail around the brick circle that is being installed now. There is speculation around town regarding how long it will take the big trucks to tear it up. Assistant Administrator Sahol said there is actually driving area outside of the cobble, which is additional flat before a vehicle even gets to the circle. The circle has a diameter of 110' and the trucks are 53'. It is called mountable, so the curbs and the areas are all mountable. If a truck got to that center he would be very surprised.

Mayor Wilkie said the answer would be no because it is designed that it can be driven over and it wouldn't do much damage to it.

Bill Berry, 400 Pigott Drive, said he is a member of the Homeowner's Association at his development. There is a significant issue with speeding through his development. The association posted signs and the Police Department has done a traffic study and has placed the mobile speed trailer in the development. He said much of it is the residents of the development. He also noticed the Amazon delivery vans also travel too fast, and not just in his development. There are a lot of young kids in the area. He would like to have a dialogue with Council about possibly changing some traffic patterns. He would like to see a couple stop signs in the development that would prevent cars from being able to just fly through. He would like to see something proactive to cut down on the drag strips on the two ends of the community that run all the way to the back. Mayor Wilkie said a meeting would be set up with the Administrator and the Police Department and representatives of the Homeowner's Association.

Melanie Mieczkowski, 1000 West Fourth Street, said she liked the idea of having a farmer's market at the former Marconi Lodge. She asked if the people who had the gardens there could sell things. She was told that would be possible. Councilman Sandusky said his idea was to get something in that area for the people living there. It is something that the township would like to try.

Joe Csik, 45 East Fifth Street, said he thought the State was supposed to regulate the timing of the light at Route 130 and Florence-Columbus Road. Mayor Wilkie said adjustments were made to the light. It was done last January. From what he was told when the power goes out the lights

Florence Township Council Regular Session 9/20/17

go back to their original settings and need to be reset. Assistant Administrator Sahol said as far as he knows the lights are operating as they were programmed by the State. They are dynamic in that they read the amount of traffic on the highway and that takes priority. It will permit a certain number of vehicles to go before reverting back to the highway. This dynamic signaling system is supposed to be functioning as designed. There are issues with power problems because they have come to the township with the idea of putting in backup generator systems at two locations. He does not know the status of that. He asked Mr. Csik to let him know a time frame when there is a problem. The township would have to prove it and the complaints have died down substantially. Mr. Csik said there needs to be more time for the cars to get through.

It was the Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Sandusky to close the public comments. All ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

8:28 PM MOTION of Woolston; seconded by Ostrander to adjourn. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Erlston
Township Clerk
/aek